

Introduction

Reports of tuberculosis (TB) cases are submitted to the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by 60 reporting areas (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, and other jurisdictions in the Pacific and Caribbean). In January 1993, DTBE, in conjunction with state and local health departments, implemented an expanded TB surveillance system. The expanded system collects additional information for each reported TB case in order to better monitor trends in TB, including drug-resistant TB, in the United States. A software package (SURVS-TB) for data entry, analysis, and transmission of case reports to CDC was designed and implemented as part of the expanded TB surveillance system. In 1998, the Tuberculosis Information Management System (TIMS) replaced SURVS-TB in order to provide reporting areas with a comprehensive software for surveillance, patient management, and program evaluation.

This publication, *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 1999*, presents summary data for TB cases reported to DTBE during 1999. It is similar to previous publications (page 5, #19) and contains six major sections. The first section is new this year and presents trends in the overall TB case counts and case rates by selected demographic and clinical characteristics. In addition to Table 1, which presents data from 1953 to the present, Tables 2 through 6 present data for the past 11 years, and Tables 7 through 10 present data collected since implementation of the expanded system in 1993, including drug resistance and clinical outcomes.

The second section (Tables 11 through 14) presents overall case counts and rates by selected demographic characteristics for 1999. In the third section, TB case counts and case rates are presented by state with tables of selected demographic and clinical characteristics. In the fourth section, data collected as part of the expanded system (e.g., initial drug resistance, HIV status) are presented by reporting area. The fifth section provides TB case counts and case rates by metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs: see Technical Notes, Appendix A, for further details) with tables of selected demographic and clinical characteristics. Finally, the sixth section is a revision of the collection of figures presented in previous years. This year, figures from the annual surveillance slide set, which emphasize key recent trends in TB epidemiology in the United States, are included. The slides with accompanying text can also be viewed and downloaded from the Division Home Page which is accessible via the Internet: www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb.

To help interpret the data, an Executive Commentary (page 2) and Technical Notes (Appendix A) have been included. In addition, the current case definition (*MMWR* 1997;46 [No. RR-10]:40-1) and "Recommendations for Counting Reported Tuberculosis Cases" are provided in Appendices B and C, respectively. The recommendations for counting TB cases, which update the January 1977 recommendations, were first published in *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 1996*.

We will continue to adapt and improve this publication to better monitor trends in TB in the United States. Your comments and suggestions that may assist us in this process will be greatly appreciated.